

ABSTRACT

[47] Conventional product exchange systems, where products can include both goods and services, include currency systems, and barter systems. The present invention combines barter systems and currency systems, allowing participants to exchange goods and services with the goods and services of others in the network. The network is a closed market, with participants offering goods and services with defined values in "trade dollars." After a designated time period, each barter transaction made by a participant with another participant in the network is settled. Where there are both purchases and sales, the amount that is equal is referred to as the "offset." The unequal amount is referred to as a balance, either positive or negative. If a participant's balance is positive, reflecting that particular participant has provided more value in goods and services than the participant has received, the participant is paid an amount of currency equal to the balance, less a fee. If the balance is negative, reflecting that the participant received more value in goods or services than the participant provided, the participant is debited for an amount equal to the negative balance.